



ORTONA ARMOURY

9722 - 102 STREET NW

CITY OF EDMONTON
HISTORIC RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Edmonton

DESCRIPTION OF HISTORICAL PLACE

The restored Ortona Armoury, also known as the Hudson's Bay Company Stables, is a two-storey U-shaped building with load-bearing brick walls and stone detailing. It is located in Edmonton's river valley and occupies the equivalent of two city lots in Rosedale, one of Edmonton's oldest neighbourhoods.

HERITAGE VALUE

The Ortona Armoury is significant for its association with the Hudson Bay Company and for its use as a military training facility during WWII. This utilitarian building is a notable expression of design sensibility and simplicity.

The Hudson Bay Company, one of Canada's foremost founding organizations, built the stable in 1914 to provide shelter for their teams and wagons. It was used as a stable until 1924 when the company switched to motorized vehicles. Over time, the building was adapted for new uses and was associated with a number of different individuals and businesses such as the world famous Edmonton Pure Butter Company.

Perhaps its most important use has been as a military training facility and administrative quarters during and following WWII. In 1939, the Edmonton Half Company of the Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer Reserve made the building their permanent quarters. In 1941 the building was commissioned as a navy base and given the name Nonsuch, in honour of the merchant ship, constructed in 1650, that sailed into the Hudson Bay during the initial trading voyage by the Hudson Bay Company.

In 1965 the building was overtaken by the Loyal Edmonton Regiment 3rd Battalion and was renamed the Ortona Armoury in commemoration of the regiments heroic battle of WWII.

Although originally designed as a stable, the Ortona Armoury has an architectural elegance not often seen in utilitarian building such as the careful organized of the seven bay façade, the brick details, and the carved sandstone Hudson Bay Crest and Coat of Arms.





CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

The character defining elements of the Ortona Armoury, as expressed in the form, massing, materials, and style of the principal façades, include:

- + the eight brick pilasters that divide the front façade into seven bays;
- + the brick detailing, such as the brick dentil course above sandstone lintels on the upper floors, the round brick arches and flat arches over window openings, and the brick band cornice at the parapet level;
- + the stone details such as the lintels and sills;
- + the hoist penthouse covered in pressed metal siding located on the southern rooftop;
- + the recessed windows in the front façade;
- + the stone capped parapet;
- + the three carved sandstone cartouches located above the entrance bay, the centre bay, and the northern bay;
- + the pattern of recessed alternating double and triple windows on the front façade;
- + the interior structural truss system and supporting elements; and
- + the interior decorative symbols in the terrazzo floor and tiles.

Designated as a Municipal Historic Resource through Bylaw 13464 in August 2004.



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